

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

a) providing text input;

b) providing a library of function words and
5 punctuation definitions;

c) examining a first plurality of words of said text input;

d) determining, using said function words and
punctuation definitions, whether said first plurality of
10 words includes a phrase;

~~e) marking said phrase;~~

~~e~~e) repeating steps c-~~e~~d until all the text input has
been analyzed; and

~~e~~f) formatting said text input according to said
15 determined phrases whereby the text input is formatted to
enhance readability.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a speech recognition device.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a client computer.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a computer keyboard.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a touch pad.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from an on-screen touch pad.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a handwriting recognition device.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided through a prosthetic device.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a network input.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the text input is provided from a text-generating computer application.

11. (currently amended) A computer-implemented ~~The method of claim 1~~ for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

a) providing text input;

b) providing a library of function words and punctuation definitions;

c) examining a first plurality of words of said text input, wherein said first plurality of words comprises comprising three words;

d) determining, using said function words and punctuation definitions, whether said first plurality of words includes a phrase, and said determining step further comprises determining whether the second word of said plurality is an end of phrase;

e) marking said phrase;

- f) repeating steps c-e until all the text input has been analyzed; and
- g) formatting said text input according to said determined phrases, whereby the text input is formatted to enhance readability.

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12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining step is performed by a neural network and wherein said text input is formatted according to said determined phrases to maintain the aesthetic quality of the text input while enhancing readability.

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13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said library further includes templates and rules and said determining step is performed by an expert system.

14. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A computer-implement method of claim 12 further for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing text input;
- b) providing a library of function words and punctuation definitions;
- c) examining a first plurality of words of said text input;
- d) determining with a neural network, using said function words and punctuation definitions, whether said first plurality of words includes a phrase;
- e) marking said phrase;
- f) repeating steps c-e until all the text input has been analyzed;

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- 15 g) formatting said text input according to said
 determined phrases, whereby the text input is
 formatted to enhance readability;
- f) examining the word before and after a word that is
 determined to be at an end of a phrase;
- 20 g) determining whether the examined words are phrase
 indicators; and,
- h) storing information resulting from steps g and h in
 said library, whereby said neural network is trained
 to recognize phrases in said text input.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein
said formatting step further comprises adjusting the size
of spaces between words differently according to said
determined phrases to maintain the aesthetic quality of the
5 text input.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said
formatting step further comprises adjusting darkness of
print.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said
formatting step further comprises selecting a font.

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said
formatting step further comprises selecting a font size.

19. (currently amended) The A computer-implemented method
of claim 1 for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing text input;
- b) providing a library of function words and
5 punctuation definitions;

- c) examining a first plurality of words of said text input, wherein said first plurality of words comprises three words;
- 10 d) determining , and said determining step further comprises with a Clauseau engine, using said function words and punctuation definitions, whether said first plurality of words includes a phrase;
- e) marking said phrase;
- f) repeating steps c-e until all the text input has
- 15 been analyzed; and
- g) formatting said text input according to said determined phrases, whereby the text input is formatted to enhance readability.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

Assigning a value from a predetermined set of values to phrase breaks found by said Clauseau engine; and

5 Formatting said text input according to said assigned values.

21. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to a printer.

22. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to a computer display device.

23. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to a speech synthesizer.

24. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated
into a video broadcast as closed-caption subtitles.

25. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated
into a Web page.

26. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated
into a printed book.

27. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated
into a magazine.

28. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
Providing formatted text output to be incorporated
into direct marketing literature.

29. (original) A system for formatting text for enhanced
readability, comprising:

a parser for parsing text input and recognizing words
and punctuation;

5 a library for storing function words and punctuation
definitions;

a readability engine for determining phrases in said
text input using said function words and punctuation
definitions and assigning values to the spaces between

10 words in said plurality, said assigned value being the
likelihood that the word is the beginning or end of a
phrase; and

15 a formatter for formatting said text input by varying the spacing between words according to said assigned values determined phrases.

30. (currently amended) The A system of claim 29 for formatting text for enhanced readability, comprising:

a parser for parsing text input and recognizing words and punctuation;

5 a library for storing function words and punctuation definitions;

wherein said readability engine is a neural net readability engine for determining phrases in said text input using said function words and punctuation definitions; and

10 a formatter for formatting said text input according to said determined phrases.

31. (currently amended) The A system of claim 29 for formatting text for enhanced readability, comprising:

a parser for parsing text input and recognizing words and punctuation;

5 a library for storing function words and punctuation definitions;

wherein said readability engine is a Clauseau readability engine for determining phrases in said text input using said function words and punctuation definitions; and

10 a formatter for formatting said text input according to said determined phrases.

32. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for formatting text comprising the steps of:

- a) providing text input;
b) providing a library of text data and ~~formatting~~
5 ~~rules~~;
c) examining a first plurality of words of said text
input;
d) determining, using said text data, whether said
first plurality of words includes a phrase;
10 ~~e) marking said phrase;~~
~~f~~e) repeating steps c-~~e~~d until all the text input has
been analyzed; and
f) formatting said text input to shorten spaces
between words within a ~~using said formatting rules~~
15 ~~according to said determined phrase~~ phrases, whereby the
~~text input is formatted~~ to improve publishing economies of
scale while minimizing degradation to text readability.

33. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for
formatting text comprising the steps of:
a) providing text input;
b) providing input about a user's reading level;
5 c) providing a library of text data and ~~formatting~~
~~rules~~;
d) examining a first plurality of words of said text
input;
e) determining, using said text data, whether said
10 first plurality of words includes a phrase;
~~f) marking said phrase;~~
~~g~~f) repeating steps d-~~f~~e until all the text input has
been analyzed; and
~~h~~g) formatting said text input by varying the space
15 size between words ~~using said formatting rules~~ according to
said determined phrases and said user's reading level

~~whereby the text input is formatted~~ to improve readability,
the variation in space size being greater for poor readers
than for good readers.

34. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the text is formatted by varying the space size between words by different amounts according to said determined phrases.

35. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the text input includes paragraphs having a given number of lines of text, said formatted text having the same or fewer lines of text in each formatted paragraph.

36. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the text input is formatted to reduce the variation in print density from one line to the next.

37. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a similar spacing pattern between words from line-to-line creates rivers, further comprising:

detecting rivers in the text input; and

5 manipulating the formatted text until the white space is varied sufficiently from line-to-line to eliminate the rivers.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the rivers are detected by either identifying vertical spaces that continue for more than two lines or analyzing the formatted text for spaces of a predetermined size aligned with spaces
5 of the same predetermined size or larger.

39. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the text is manipulated by first attempting to realign the second line in the detected river, and, if not possible or not successful in eliminating the river, attempting to realign
5 the first line and then the third line of the detected river.

40. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said text input is formatted by varying the spacing between words and physical features of letters within the text input according to the phrases determined over multiple lines of text to enhance
5 readability while maintaining the aesthetic quality of the text input.

41. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the library of function words and punctuation definitions is provided by the neural network.

42. (new) A computer-implemented method for formatting text, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing text input;
- b) providing a library of function words and
5 punctuation definitions;
- c) examining a first plurality of words of the said text input;
- d) assigning, using said function words and punctuation definitions, values to the spaces between words
10 in said plurality, said assigned value being the likelihood that the word is the beginning or end of a phrase;
- e) repeating step d until all the text input has been analyzed and values assigned to all of the spaces between the words; and

15 f) formatting said text input according to the
assigned values to enhance readability.

43. (new) A computer-implemented method for formatting
text, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing text input;
- b) installing an input vocabulary of function words
5 and punctuation definitions that are stored in a library;
- c) examining a first plurality of words of said text
input using the punctuation definitions indicating a
phrase;
- d) examining said plurality or words to look for
10 stored function words indicating a phrase;
- e) based on the examinations, assigning values to the
spaces between the words in said plurality, said assigned
value being the likelihood that the word is the beginning
or end of a phrase;
- 15 f) repeating steps c-e until all the text input has
been analyzed and values assigned to all spaces between the
words in the text input;
- g) formatting said text input by varying the spacing
between words according to the assigned values to enhance
20 readability of the text input.

44. (new) A computer-implemented method for formatting
text, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing text input;
- b) providing a library of function words and
5 punctuation definitions;
- c) training a neural network using the library to
recognize phrases in text and assign values to spaces
between words in the phrases, said assigned value being the

likelihood that the word is the beginning or end of a
10 phrase;

d) examining a first plurality of words of said text
input;

e) using the neural network to assign values to the
spaces between words in said plurality;

15 f) repeating steps c-e until all the text input has
been analyzed and values assigned to all of the spaces
between the words; and

g) formatting said text input according to the
assigned values to enhance readability.

45. (new) A computer-implemented method for formatting
text, comprising the steps of:

a) providing text input;

b) examining a first plurality of words of said text
5 input;

c) assigning values to the spaces between words in
said plurality, said assigned value being the likelihood
that the word is the beginning or end of a phrase;

d) repeating steps b-c until all the text input has
10 been analyzed and values assigned to all of the spaces
between the words; and

e) formatting said text input by varying the spacing
between words according to the assigned values to enhance
readability.